

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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FOR US TEXTILE DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, HK

SUBJECT: US/HK VISA REQUIREMENTS.

1. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS TELEX FROM HONG KONG CONCERNING
GARMENTS WHICH HK IS CLASSFYING AND VISAING AS SUITS,
CATEGORY 644. GARMENTS IN QUESTION HAVE TOP WHICH IS
CLASSIFIED BY CUSTOMS IN CATEGORY 639. HK RATIONALE IS
THAT THE FABRICS OF THE TOPS AND BOTTOMS ARE IDENTICAL
OR COORDINATED. TOP IS FINER THAN 12-GUAGE AND IS NOT
DESIGNED TO BE WORN OVER ANOTHER GARMENT, THUS IS NOT
JACKET. HK IS INGORING THE DESCRIPTIONS CONCERNING
JACKETS, CITED IN GUIDELINES.

2. EMBASSY HAS ASKED U.S. TO WAIVE VISA REQUIREMENT
WITHOUT PREJUDICE PENDING CONSULTATION WITH TEXTILE TEAM.
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US WAIVING VISA AND CHARGING TO APPROPRIATE CATEGORIES.

3. US CUSTOMS' SUIT GUIDELINES PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED HK
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

"SUITS

1. MEN'S AND BOYS' SUITS CONSIST OF A (1) COAT AND ONE PAIR OF TROUSERS OR SHORTS; (2) COAT, VEST AND ONE PAIR OF TROUSERS OR SHORTS; (3) COAT, VEST AND TWO PAIRS OF TROUSERS, SHORTS OR COMBINATION THEREOF. ALL COMPONENTS OF THE SUIT MUST BE PREDOMINATELY OF IDENTICAL FABRIC (AS TO CONSTRUCTION, COLOR, AND PATTERN), EXCEPT THAT IN THE CASE OF REVERSIBLE VEST, ONE SIDE OF THE VEST MUST BE OF SUCH IDENTICAL FABRIC. THE COAT MUST BE "CUT AND SEWN" WITH A FULL-FRONTAL OPENING, HAVE SLEEVES OF ANY LENGTH, AND BE DESIGNATED FOR WEAR OVER A LIGHTER GARMENT; IT MAY BE WAIST LENGTH (E.G., AN "IKE" JACKET) OR EXTEND TO MID-THIGH OR SLIGHTLY BELOW. VESTS AND TROUSERS OF CONTRASTING FABRICS OR COLORS ARE NOT INCLUDED AS PARTS OF SUITS AND SHOULD BE REPORTED STATISTICALLY AS INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES UNDER APPROPRIATE TSUSA ITEM NUMBERS.

2. WOMEN'S, GIRLS', AND INFANTS' SUITS, CONSIST OF A JACKET IN COMBINATION WITH A SKIRT AND/OR PANTS OF ANY LENGTH, WHICH ARE PREDOMINATELY OF IDENTICAL FABRIC IN CONSTRUCTION, AND WHICH EITHER MATCH OR COORDINATE IN COLOR OR PATTERN. THE JACKET MAY HAVE SLEEVES OF ANY LENGTH, BUT MUST HAVE A FULL-FRONTAL OPENING, AND BE "CUT AND SEWN" RATHER THAN FULL-FASHIONED. IT IS DISTINGUISHED FROM A SKIRT OR BLOUSE, BY CHARACTERISTICS DEDICATING IT FOR NORMAL USE OVER A LIGHTER GARMENT.

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SHELLS, OR OTHER SIMILAR GARMENTS SOLD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED COMPONENTS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES UNLESS THEY ARE PREDOMINATELY COMPOSED OF IDENTICAL MATERIAL AS THE BASIC COMPONENTS.

ENSEMBLES, SUCH AS ATHLETIC SUITS AND UNIFORMS, RAIN SUITS, WORK UNIFORMS, MATCHING SHIRT AND PANTS SETS, ETC., ARE NOT CONSIDERED "SUITS" UNDER THESE DEFINITIONS AND SHOULD NOT BE REPORTED AS SUCH, EVEN THOUGH THE COMPONENT PARTS ARE OF IDENTICAL FABRIC." VANCE

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